

Remarks

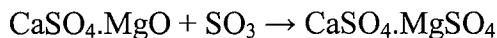
The Office Action dated January 18, 2007 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-8 and 17-32 remain in the case with none of the claims indicated allowable. Independent Claims 1, 17, and 25 are currently amended to recite that reducible acids are reduced by *electron addition*. Support for this amendment may be found, *inter alia*, on page 10, lines 7-10.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1-8 and 17-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,824,441 (“Kindig”). The Office argues that Kindig discloses:

[M]aintaining the reducing environment for a sufficient time period such that reducible acids are reduced to achieve a desirable acidity concentration in the flue gas (see at least col. 12, line 54 through col. 13, line 23, note particularly equation 7)(Emphasis added).

Kindig’s Equation 7 provides:



Equation 7 shows the reaction of a magnesium-based sorbent with a sulfur trioxide, i.e. it shows an oxidizing agent (CaSO₄.MgO) oxidizing SO₃ by removing an electron. The claimed invention recites reduction by *electron addition*. Applicant believes the current amendments address the Office’s concerns regarding the interpretation of reduction. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that none of the currently pending claims are anticipated by Kindig. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

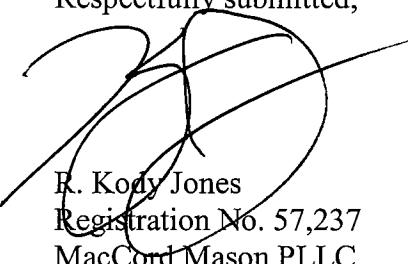
35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 17-32 were rejected as obvious under Kindig in view of United States Patent No. 4,196,057 (“May”). Applicant disagrees. While Kindig may, ultimately lower acid due point, Kindig does not do so using the claimed method. May is unable to fill in this void.

For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 17-24 are patentable over the cited combination of references.

Applicant submits that by this amendment, he has placed the case in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains unresolved, Applicant's attorney would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 17, 2007
File No.: 7340-011